REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

OF THE

Town of Scarborough

MAINE

FOR THE YEAR

1921-22

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1922.

REPORT OF THE
Superintendent of Schools.

To the Citizens of Scarborough:

During the past year several plans which have been before us for a long time have reached their consummation; several former experiments have become established parts of our regular work.

The most tangible achievement of the year has been the erection of a modern two-room school building on adequate grounds at Dunstan. This removed perhaps the most pressing problem of our school equipment. The completion of repairs on the school at North Scarborough has made that building the first of our older buildings to be standardized as required by the state. In several other schools, especially at Pine Point, general improvements relating to sanitation have been made. All of this work has been done on a "pay as you go" basis. Although these repairs caused an overdraft of $461.54, careful handling of other educational accounts saved more than that amount.

Individual health records for pupils, instituted this year, showed the value of past work in health education. Hot noon lunches are now provided at the high school, Beech Ridge, Beech Hill and Black Point, and supervised lunches, resulting in more careful eating, have been instituted in other schools.

The evening school—last year an experiment—has been continued and extended. Its courses now include domestic science, mechanical drawing, two classes in hygiene and home nursing, English and farm accounts. Mr. Bessey, Miss

Bryant and Mr. Hodgman, the janitor of the Oak Hill school building, contributed their services. The cost of the evening school has been slight, and it is probable that even of that cost part will be refunded by the state.

Our high school graduates continue to reflect credit on our schools. During the last college year Helen Baker and Abbie Small, our only two graduates at Bates College, received scholarships, indicating that they obtained an average in rank of 85 or better. Miss Small also was second highest in her class. Our college course—the course which, not many years ago, we considered the advisability of dropping from our curriculum—is now preparing our students for higher institutions in a most creditable manner.

The great increase in popular interest and co-operation has been the most gratifying feature of the year. Through this interest victrolas have been purchased for many of the schools, slate blackboards have been provided for the North Scarborough and Pine Point schools, and in other schools less tangible but very valuable benefits have resulted. Our first Parent-Teacher Association has been formed at Dunstan and is already demonstrating its power in showing an interest in the schools of the community. The appended report of Principal Bessey shows how the teachers appreciate the interest of parents and the public in general.

Financially, for the first time in recent years, we have held our own. In most of the items a small balance was left at the end of the year. As before mentioned, these small balances took care of the one deficit due to the necessary and compulsory standardization of buildings, and, considering the appropriations as a whole, we closed the year with a balance of $53.73.

Next to your splendid teaching force, the successes of the

year have been largely due to the zeal and willingness of your School Committee. Their grasp on educational problems and the constructive nature of their efforts have been unusual, even for Scarborough, which has been blessed with School Committees of more than ordinary comprehension and earnestness. They have had splendid support from other town officials and citizens, to all of whom the town owes its greatest gratitude.

PROBLEMS.

What of the future? Shall we stand still or continue to progress? The answer rests, not on Superintendent and School Committee, but on the attitude, expressed in word and act, of the citizens. We must hold fast to what we have already achieved and at the same time give most serious thought to the lines of future development.

Scarborough is a rural community in the midst of cities. As such, its first duty is to impress upon our boys and girls the advantages of agricultural occupations and to prepare those boys and girls to make the most of those advantages. In so doing, Scarborough will be following the law of self-preservation. Our own people we must retain; others we must attract.

With the proper organization of your schools, efficient teachers and adequate equipment and buildings, I believe that our population will increase so that eventually a good graded school will be necessary within easy distance of every child. Unless we keep up with educational progress, however, we will lose the best type of citizen increasing as years go on. Lest this seem visionary, note that our school population has increased twelve per cent. in the last year. At least part of this increase was due to increased efficiency in

your schools. It is never visionary to aim at self-preservation and self-improvement.

With this in mind I lay before you five definite problems for thoughtful consideration and action.

1. Adequate Financial Support.

Thanks to such support in the past, salaries for your teachers have been made, to a degree, commensurate with the ability needed. As a result, a splendid corps of teachers has been employed. As the success of the school rests fundamentally on the ability of the teacher, any curtailment in the plan of progressive salary increases would work inestimable injury to your school system.

This year we face a new apportionment of state funds for schools. Under it, it is estimated that we shall lose slightly less than $900.00. Under the new law our state grants are payable in a single fund for both secondary and common schools, and this fund will be based on the number of teachers employed, school census and aggregate attendance. The usual $500.00 for high school will not be forthcoming, but the aggregate attendance, together with the number of teachers employed in that school, will help to increase our grant. It should be noted that each of these bases of apportionment goes back to our fundamental problem of rural self-preservation.

Furthermore, our rate of taxation for school support is smaller than the average for the county (and the county is the third lowest in the state) and less than the tax for any of the surrounding towns which are operating under at all similar conditions.

Finally, this year's financial report shows clearly that, given adequate funds, your committee has not spent them

promiscuously, but has handled the money with a care which warrants complete confidence. Thus it is hoped that the financial proposals of your committee will be given the same splendid support which they have received in the past.

2. Standardization of School Buildings.

This is compulsory by state law. It will be necessary to spend considerable money before 1924. The problem which it presents is this: Standardize we must; this forces our decision as to these other accompanying educational problems if we are to get the most for our money.

3. Consolidation of Schools.

This is the greatest problem forced upon us by standardization. Before we have gone too far in improving buildings we should determine if it is advisable to close some schools and concentrate our pupils in fewer and better schools. There is no uniform rule which can be applied to all schools. Each school should be considered as a case by itself. On the other hand, such consideration should not be hampered by personal or petty matters. The sole problem is what is best for the pupils involved.

4. A New High School.

This need is even more pressing than when presented in the last report. What do we want and where do we want it? What we want is a problem to be determined only in the light of all other educational problems. Where we want it is merely a problem of creating the greatest convenience to the greatest number, all other things considered. There will be prepared during the coming year material on the actual location of our pupils in an effort to obtain more light on this subject.

Informal discussions, submission of definite proposals coming from those discussions and a readiness to make adequate appropriations when agreement has been reached will clarify the situation and provide a speedy and satisfactory solution of this most pressing problem. While we must move carefully, we must be sure that we keep moving.

5. Reorganization of Our School System on the Junior-Senior High School or 6–3–3 Plan.

This organization of the pupil's school years is now quite generally accepted as the best plan throughout the country. For its greatest success it depends on the solution of the problems of consolidation and the new high school. Without these, however, given some suitable accommodations, it would relieve many of our rural schools of the two upper grades and be of great benefit to our boys and girls.

Thus we have an inventory of our educational problems, showing the relation of each to the others. None of the problems is entirely new. Each has been discussed in former reports in more detail. Discussion of them with individuals or groups is invited, with confidence that out of constructive discussion will come greater efficiency in our school system.

Respectfully submitted,

F. H. B. Heald,
Superintendent of Schools.

Report of High School.

To Supt. F. H. B. Heald:

I herewith submit my first report as principal of Scar borough high school.

Our enrollment this year equals the average for the past few years. We have a total registration of sixty, and at

present an enrollment of fifty-four. This makes necessary the using of all three of our rooms as home rooms, the seating capacity of the largest being only forty.

Up to February 1st our average daily attendance has been a little above 95%. Our tardiness record shows a great improvement over that of last year. I am sure that fully 90% of what tardiness we have can be avoided if both pupils and parents take upon themselves the responsibility of seeing to it that errands, oversleeping and chores do not interfere with school work.

We are now offering two courses, a college preparatory and a general course. The former course, particularly, has been worked out and developed to a standard which I feel compares favorably with that of any other school, and I think that we are meeting the needs of the pupils reasonably well, as well as any school with a teaching force of only three can be expected to do.

We have received several reports from our graduates who have entered college. All show good standing and reflect credit upon the school. One of these students attained an A average last year in all studies, ranking second in her class at Bates College. There is an increasing number of pupils headed for advanced institutions of learning. Sixty per cent. of our last year's graduating class are in advanced schools, and already three members of the present Senior class have passed preliminary examinations to Bates College.

Our library has been added to during the year and we now have approximately three hundred and fifty volumes. The students have recently purchased a fifteen-volume set of "Stoddard's Lectures," paying for them in small monthly contributions.

In athletics, teams in basket ball, track and cross-country

have been developed. Our cross-country team was especially successful and succeeded in winning a cup for third place in the State Interscholastic run at Waterville, a feat possible only for the fact that each member of the team trained carefully and consistently for several weeks preceding the run.

One of the most popular features of the school is the noon lunch, prepared by the students under the supervision of Miss Frances Bryant. No menu costs more than ten cents. Sometimes the receipts do not cover the cost, but usually a small sum is gained, and this is being used toward the payment of a victrola. The victrola has been used in our English classes as an aid to a better appreciation of certain parts of English literature, and has also been used in our physical exercise drills, which have been instituted this year in conformity with the state requirements.

During the year we gained permanent possession of the cup for which the high schools of Old Orchard, Cape Elizabeth and Scarborough had been contending for the last three years for excellence in public speaking. We are planning to send representatives to county and state public speaking contests in the spring.

One thing which we need in school at the present time is more visiting on the part of the parents. Frequent visitors stimulate the teachers as well as the pupils. Besides, when parents see the actual everyday work of the school, it helps them to better understand our problems.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Superintendent and the Superintending School Committee for their help and support in the administration of my duties.

Respectfully submitted,

ELWOOD G. BESSEY.

School Statistics.

School.	1921. Winter Term.			1921. Spring Term.			1921. Fall Term.		
	Length in Weeks.	Registration.	Average Attendance.	Length in Weeks.	Registration.	Average Attendance.	Length in Weeks.	Registration.	Average Attendance.
Scarborough High	12	47	43.3	10	44	42.9	14	58	53+
Oak Hill Grammar	12	34	32	10	33	31+	14	30	28
Oak Hill Primary	12	36	33+	10	35	33+	14	35	29+
Dunstan Grammar	12	19	17.6	10	19	16	14	20	17.5
Dunstan Primary	12	21	18+	10	23	15.3+	14	28	22.4
Black Point School	12	23	20+	9	25	23	14	25	22.9+
Blue Point School	12	28	27	9	28	26	14	24	22+
Beech Ridge School	12	21	17	10	20	16+	14	21	18
Beech Hill School	12	24	20.1	10	26	24.9	14	28	24.3
Libby School	10	15	13+	12	24	20	14	30	22.6
No. Scarborough Sch'l	12	21	19	10	23	19.8+	14	22	21.17
Pine Point School	12	22	19	10	24	21	14	35	31.7
Scottows' Hill School	12	9	8	10	16	14	14	23	18

Roster of Teachers in Service at Present Time.

Name.	Teaching Experience.	Education.
Elwood G. Bessey	9½	Bates College, A. B. Gray's Business College Officers' Training School Bates Summer School
Frances V. Bryant	8½	Bates College, A. B. Bates Summer School
Bessie Bray Stevens	2½	Edward Little High School Bates College, A. B.
Lida E. Libby*	31½	Scarborough Schools Gorham Normal School
Laura J. Milliken	26½	Scarborough High School Gorham Normal School
Carrie S. Leavitt	23½	Scarborough High School Thornton Academy
Lena M. Sherman	9½	Westbrook High School Gorham Normal School† Farmington Normal School† Castine Normal School†
Mabel F. Storey	9½	Gorham High School Gorham Normal School†
Susie E. Mitchell	7½	Portland High School Gorham Normal School† Farmington Normal School†
Emma F. Wentworth	6½	Scarborough High School Gorham Normal School
Elinor F. Harmon	3½	Scarborough High School Gorham Normal School Castine Normal School†
Florence S. Baker	10½	Weston High School Boston Teachers' Training School‡
Elizabeth A. Littlejohn	9½	Scarborough High School Standish High School
Christine Wyman	4½	Livermore Falls High School Post Graduate Course at Livermore Falls High School and Westbrook Seminary Gorham Normal School
Mildred S. Henry	12½	Thornton Academy Shaw's Business College Gordon Bible Society, S. S. Teaching

EVENING SCHOOL.

Rensel H. Colby	Bowdoin College, A. B.
Elwood G. Bessey	
Frances V. Bryant	
Mary F. Robie	University of Maine, B. S.
Alice S. Hawes	Professional Nurse

*Formerly Superintendent of Schools.
†Summer Courses.
‡Partial Course.

Financial Statement.

COMMON SCHOOL ACCOUNT.

RESOURCES.

1921.			
Mar. 7.	Local taxation,	$8,500 00	
Dec.	State and mill tax,	1,430 40	
Dec.	Common school fund,	*3,064 48	
	Reimbursement for transportation,	4 50	
			$12,999 38

EXPENDITURES.

Overdraft, fiscal year 1920–1921,		$ 400 60	
Proportional part of teacher's salary at union school,		241 18	
Scarborough teachers' wages to date ending February 11, 1922,		9,749 80	
Fuel,		721 77	
Janitor's services, including union school,		488 70	
Conveyance:			
Broad Turn pupils,	$540 00		
Black Point pupils,	144 00		
Teachers,	33 51		
		717 51	
Transferred to High School Account,		327 03	
			$12,646 59
Balance,			$352 79

*$241.11 more than year 1920–1921.

HIGH SCHOOL ACCOUNT.

Resources.

1921.			
Mar. 7.	Local taxation,	$5,100 00	
	State,	500 00	
	Brought over from Common School Account,	327 03	
			$5,927 03

Expenditures.

Overdraft, fiscal year 1920–1921,	$ 472 49	
Teachers' wages to date ending February 11, 1922,	5,027 45	
Janitor's service to date ending February 11, 1922,	240 00	
Fuel,	187 09	
		$5,927 03

TEXTBOOK ACCOUNT.

Resources.

1921.			
Mar. 7.	Local taxation,	$550 00	
	Transferred from Appliances Account,	68 73	
			$618 73

Expenditures.

Overdraft, fiscal year 1920–1921:			
Common schools,	$66 80		
High school,	30 00		
		$ 96 80	
Fiscal year 1921–1922:			
Common schools,	$344 42		
High school,	177 51		
		521 93	
			$618 73

APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES.

Resources.

1921.			
Mar. 7.	Local taxation,		$400 00

Expenditures.

Overdraft, fiscal year 1920–1921:			
Common schools,	$29 33		
High school,	14 00		
		$43 33	
Fiscal year 1921–1922:			
Common schools,	$217 68		
High school,	20 78		
		238 46	
Transferred to Book Account,		68 73	
			350 52
Balance,			$49 48

REPAIRS AND BUILDING SUPPLIES.

Resources.

1921.			
Mar. 7.	Local taxation,	$2,000 00	
	Sale of logs,	5 00	
			$2,005 00

Expenditures.

Overdraft, fiscal year 1920–1921,	$209 11	
Fiscal year 1921–22:		
High school, estimated,	95 88	
Standardization work at North Scarborough,	640 58	
Standardization work at Pine Point,	550 03	

Insurance on school buildings,	$ 88 20	
General expenditures for upkeep of buildings,	882 74	
		$2,466 54
Overdraft,		461 54
		$2,005 00

MEDICAL AND DENTAL INSPECTION.

Resources.

1921.		
Mar. 7.	Local taxation,	$75 00

Expenditures.

Doctor's services to date ending Feb. 11, 1922,	$75 00

EVENING SCHOOL.

Resources.

1921.		
Mar. 7.	Local taxation,	$200 00

Expenditures.

All bills paid to date ending Feb. 11, 1922,	$87 00
Balance,	$113 00

CLUB WORK.

Resources.

1921.		
Mar. 7.	Local taxation,	$20 00

Expenditures.

Girls' Club,	$10 00	
County champions of Scarborough Agricultural Club,	10 00	
		$20 00

Financial Summary, 1921–1922.

	Total Resources.	Total Expenditures.	Balance.	Overdraft.
Common Schools	$12,999 38	$12,646 59	$352 79	
High School	5,927 03	5,927 03		
Textbooks	618 73	618 73		
Appliances and Supplies	400 00	350 52	49 48	
Repairs and Building Supplies	2,005 00	2,466 54		$461 54
Medical and Dental Inspection	75 00	75 00		
Evening School	200 00	87 00	113 00	
Club Work	20 00	20 00		

Net balance, $53.73.